

work but Senator Landis brought out some good points and I want to review with you, from my point of view, some of those conflicts that when you have cases that go through juvenile court and then the county court and you have children who are moved from the home that those become part of an agency that has got extremely low morale, workers who maybe through no fault of their own, have incredibly large caseloads, but that the plans and the reviews become very form oriented. As a guardian ad litem, I may not get those until the day of the hearing, without any opportunity to review them, or if they don't get them at all. And in the last six months I've cases where court orders have been specific, that the Department of Social Services shall not return children home without notice to a guardian ad litem, to the court, and the department does it anyway. And the reason is we reviewed it, it's okay, we didn't see any problem with it and besides, well, we don't always get the court orders and they don't care, and it makes you angry. That's not every case, but it's that attitude that makes you sign onto bills like this. And the inherent conflict that that Department of Social Services has right now is they make the initial case plan. They present it to the court. Oftentimes, they're the only resource for the court to look to. But being the only resource causes a lot of responsibility because sometimes they're the only ones that have a plan and know the phone numbers or have any of the options and everybody throws up their hands and says this case is so hard we don't know what to do with it and they look at the Department of Social Services. And those workers and those plans, after a while, they figure the problem is solved, I've got them in foster care, I've got another problem, I've got another war to go after, and they get put on the shelf, and nobody looks at them. And, all of a sudden, all of these problems start to crop up. I've always supported the Foster Care Review Board to do these reviews and the cases that they do have uncovered some tremendously bad cases. Now the policy shift to have them do them all makes me nervous. I've got to tell you, as a supporter of them, I'm nervous about can they handle that load? Can they do them all? But I am so frustrated with the current system, I don't think it can be any worse, I really don't. And, as I look through, I'm willing to...I'm willing to go, at least with the underlying bill. Senator Avery's amendment I'm not sure about...

SPEAKER WITHEN: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...but the underlying bill is one I can